IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Application of

David ENGEL

084 143

Serial No. 10/084,183

Group Art Unit: 3679

Examiner: Kenneth I. THOMPSON

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For: RETAINING RING APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office 2011 South Clark Place Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, VA 22202

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Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 13, 2004, having a threemonth shortened statutory period of response set to expire July 13, 2004. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.